



**Department of  
Environmental Protection**  
Bureau of Land & Water Quality    Aug. 2000

**O&M Newsletter**

A monthly newsletter for wastewater discharge licensees, treatment facility operators, and associated persons

## **Bureau of Land & Water Quality Program Changes**

After many months of discussions, The Bureau of Land and Water Quality has finally settled on a plan for process improvements, job assignments and organizational changes that is aimed at improving the waste water licensing/compliance/technical assistance/enforcement/improvement/relicensing functions in anticipation of federal NPDES (Clean Water Act) delegation. We expect that this plan will continue to evolve, especially after delegation, but the basic approach is set. The central tenet of the plan involves viewing the wastewater licensing and compliance function as a cycle of continuous improvement, rather than as separate tasks inside "boxes" on an organization chart. It also involves an emphasis on various functions supporting one another within a system of cross-checks so that issues get resolved in a more timely fashion that doesn't get bottlenecked in the relicensing function.

Here are the key changes effective immediately:

## **In the Division of Engineering and Technical Assistance:**

The "waste water inspectors" will be reassigned to report to a new section under Don Albert, called Compliance and Technical Assistance. They will report to a Senior Environmental Engineer (SEE) position who will report to Don Albert. That SEE position will be created by combining two vacant positions approved for NPDES delegation. The new SEE position will remain vacant for the time being, so in the near term the four ESIV regional supervisors will report directly to Don. The inspectors will now be considered Field Services specialists whose duties will include both compliance and technical assistance functions.

Also reporting to Don will be Sterling Pierce (SEE) who will head the Technical Assistance, Pollution Prevention and Training function. Reporting to Sterling will be Dick Darling and Ken Jones.

We also plan to fill the Division Director position in DETA, which Bill Brown is now filling in an Acting capacity. We will fill the position at its current classification, and will advertise statewide for candidates. The new Division Director and Don Albert will have a shared role in the success of the waste water licensing/relicensing cycle as

the Field Services specialists perform an essential role in compliance while maintain records and data required for relicensing and any enforcement actions (if necessary).

### **In the Division of Water Resource Regulation:**

Mike Barden will continue to oversee the licensing and enforcement portion of water resources:

#### **Waste water licensing**

(industrial/POTW)-- headed by Gregg Wood. Recently, we added two experienced DEP staff to the Licensing group -- Bob Stratton and David Silver -- who bring valuable experience from the Land Resources Division. We also plan to fill an additional Assistant Engineer position that may be starting as early as 7/31.

#### **Enforcement**

headed by Dennis Merrill. Enforcement will now play a more active role in auditing our own internal compliance and licensing procedures, and in resolving outstanding issues prior to relicensing.

#### **Hydropower and other licensing**

headed by Dana Murch. Tammy Gould (UIC and Sand/Salt) will report to Dana.

#### **Overboard Discharge**

licensing/inspection/boat pump out - Pam Parker supervises the OBD and Boat Pump out programs (Mary Morgan, Denise Fournier, Vacant ES II, 6 seasonal cons aides) and reports to Mike Barden.

Don Albert and Mike Barden will co-chair the monthly Non-Compliance Review (NCR) process. The procedure will be that both must agree in order to

advance a non-compliance issue to the next level of action (including formal enforcement). If the two co-chairs do not agree regarding the next action, then the Bureau Director will break the tie.

In all areas, there will be a stronger emphasis on updating procedures, and implementing mechanisms that ensure DEP procedures are followed appropriately. It is still our goal to eliminate the backlog of industrial/POTW permits by October 2002, while we take over federal NPDES permitting. Our schedule indicates that that goal is a major challenge but fully achievable with excellent teamwork and cooperation within the Bureau. We will keep you posted as we continue to make progress in the coming months.

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### **EPA DMR QA Study # 20 Update.**

As indicated in previous O&M Newsletters, study updates will appear in the news every month as a reminder of immediate, upcoming deadlines.

#### **Coming up:**

- **Two weeks before the deadline set by each provider lab** for the permittee sample results report back to them, but **no later than August**

**29:** The chemistry and toxicity results are to be sent by the labs **to the permittees**. Toxicity results are also to be sent to NERL [for use in setting limits].

**Deadline set by each provider lab, but no later than September 15:**

Permittees are to send their chemistry test results data back to the NIST provider lab [s] for evaluation. This is also the deadline for permittees to send wet testing results data to NERL for evaluation. Copies of both of these are to be sent to the state coordinator. Detailed instructions on how to prepare this results report packet are contained in the original DMR-QA Study 20 Announcement that participating facilities received last spring.

If you have additional questions, please refer to the original study announcement for further instructions or call me at 287-7659

*David Dodge*

## A Webbing We Will Go



Have you checked out DEP's website lately? It seems to have grown with the warm weather. And, the items described below are just the very tip of the tomato plant! Start from the DEP homepage at <http://www.state.me.us/dep>



The DEP's Bureau of Land and Water Quality has lots of information on a range of water quality issues. On the Monitoring Page, you can find recent information on monitoring for toxics on the coast, as well as a new 15-year report from the Biological Monitoring Program (the state of the critters can tell you a lot about the health of a river). Check out the "Lakes," "Rivers," and "Groundwater" pages, the start of a series pulling together lots of information related to specific sorts of water resources. Did you know Maine has a brand new Stream Teams Program and you could participate? Do you know how to report a lake algal bloom? Follow a link out to the PEARL web site from the Lakes Page for a database of information on Maine Lakes -- maybe even your favorite fishing spot!



Concerned about what you may be breathing? Check out the Ozone Alert Page under the Bureau of Air Quality to find out about current and expected ozone concentrations for the next 24 hours. If you're in Portland, the BEAM Project provides information on several pollutants on a near real time basis. A connection to CAMNET brings you live images of Acadia National Park and other locations and lets you know just how far you might be able to see, if you

were standing on that mountain at the moment, instead of sitting in the office.



The Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management has the staff that help clean up, dispose of, and manage the items that most of us don't like to think about. They also help keep us safe from the everyday toxic materials on which we still depend. Check out the section on "Is Your Home a Health Hazard?" and information about cleanup efforts in "Sites in the News." The staff are starting to add interesting reports from their databases to the web, like the "Uncontrolled Sites List." Do you know how to report a chemical spill if you see one? And, look for the eagle logo: the new "Environmental Leader" program helps us to identify the gas stations that are going the extra mile to avoid harming the environment.

Also, let's not forget all the basics. You can find publications, training, technical assistance programs, materials for teachers, small business assistance, locations of offices, rules and applications, how to report violations, who does what, and more. Do you know what "Smart Production" is? Check it out. There is more good information all the time.

Learn more about the status of Maine's environment, and what is being done and still needs to be done by all of us, to protect it. If you have suggestions for the web site, please pass them on! If you don't have an internet connection, please remember we're just a phone call away

(1-800-492-0859). And we still have a real person answering the phone. Although, this time of year, she might rather be in the garden.

**Hetty Richardson**

**In Our Backyard** is a weekly column of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. E-mail your environmental questions to [infodep@state.me.us](mailto:infodep@state.me.us) or send them to In Our Backyard, Maine DEP, 17 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333.

## For Practice

1. Which of the following wastewater characteristics can be easily monitored on a continuous basis?
  - a. BOD
  - b. Mercury
  - c. pH
  - a. Coliform Bacteria
2. Part of the required maintenance for capillary or liquid thermometers includes checking for:
  - a. corrosion
  - b. high fluid level
  - c. loose connections
  - d. leaks
3. Before making a final decision, all information pertaining to the situation should be:
  - a. analyzed.
  - b. discussed with everyone in the plant.
  - c. written down on an approved form.
  - d. none of the above.

4. In what wastewater treatment process is the sludge re-aerated in a separate tank before being returned to be mixed with the influent?
- conventional activated sludge.
  - contact stabilization.
  - extended aeration.
  - trickling filter.

## **UPCOMING TRAINING COURSES**

September 12, 2000 in Norway, ME, Line Location and Leak Detection – approved for 4 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water Association (207) 729-6569

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September 13, 2000 in South Berwick, ME, Line Location and Leak Detection – approved for 4 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water Association (207) 729-6569

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September 26, 2000 in Old Orchard Beach, ME, Mechanical Seals & Packing Application, Selection & Installation – approved for 4 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water Association (207) 729-6569

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September 27, 2000 in Bangor, ME, Mechanical Seals & Packing Application, Selection & Installation – approved for 4 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water Association (207) 729-6569

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October 4 & 5, 2000 in Presque Isle, ME, North Country Convention – various training approved for up to 12 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2649

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Oct. 3,10,17,24,31 & Nov. 7, 2000 in Scarborough, ME, Stormwater Instructional Module - approved for 6

hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2649.

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October 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2000 in Bangor, ME, NPDES Laboratory Class - approved for 16 hours, sponsored by MRWA (207) 729-6569

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October 17, 2000 in Bangor, ME, Setting Up a Pump Maintenance Program - approved for 6 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2649.

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October 17, 2000, in Old Orchard Beach, ME, Electric Motors: Design, Installation & Maintenance – approved for 4 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water Association (207) 729-6569

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October 24, 2000 in Augusta, ME, Hands-on Review of BOD/TSS & Settleability - approved for 6 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2649.

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October 25, 2000 in Brewer, ME, Belt Press Cleaning & Maintenance - approved for 6 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2649.

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November 1, 2000 in Portland, ME, Electrical Maintenance & Controls - approved for 6 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2649.

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November 2, 2000 in Skowhegan, ME, Step by Step Basic Math Review - approved for 6 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2649.

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November 8, 2000 in Kittery, ME, SCADA Systems - approved for 6 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2649.

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November 8, 2000, in East Vassalboro, Electric Motors: Design, Installation & Maintenance – approved for 4 hours,

sponsored by Maine Rural Water  
Association (207) 729-6569

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Nov. 15, 16 & 17, 2000 in Westbrook,  
ME, WW Collection Systems w/  
Optional Exam - approved for 13 hours,  
sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2649.

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November 28, 2000 in Augusta, ME,  
High Flow Management - approved for 6  
hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-  
2649.

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December 5, 2000 Ellsworth, ME,  
Polymer Sealant Repair & Preventive  
Maintenance Systems Applications in  
WWTF's & Pump Stations - approved  
for 6 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207)  
767-2649.

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December 7, 2000 Augusta, ME,  
Oxidation Reduction Potential (ORP) -  
approved for 6 hours, sponsored by  
JETCC (207) 767-2649.

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December 12, 2000 Scarborough  
Laboratory Quality Control & Quality  
Assurance - approved for 6 hours,  
sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2649.

## **November Certification Exam Reminder**

The next Operator Certification Exam  
will be given on Wednesday, November  
15, 1997 in the usual locations of  
Portland, Bangor and Presque Isle. If  
you want to take the November Exam,  
make sure you get your application form  
or re-test request form to us by  
**September 29, 2000.** And, please, come  
prepared for the test. We really would  
like to see the best pass/fail ratio ever!

## **Answers to *For Practice*:**

1. c the only parameter listed that can  
be measured on a continuous basis is  
pH, all the other parameters require  
a discrete sample to be taken and  
analyzed
2. d Capillary thermometers rely  
on an adequate supply of liquid to  
give accurate readings. Therefore,  
you should check to the liquid  
reservoir
3. a The person making a decision  
should analyze all the facts available  
before making the decision.
4. b Only contact stabilization uses  
treatment process. Some  
conventional and extended aeration  
plants may aerate wasted sludge to  
keep it aerobic, but this sludge is  
normally not returned to the system.

***Dick Darling***